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5 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Interagency External Research Meetings

1. For the last year, as a means of facilitating informal coordination among the offices in the national security agencies responsible for external research, representatives of these offices have met one evening a month for dinner and subsequent discussion of problems of mutual interest. Each month one agency serves as "host," which means that it provides a meeting place in the security of its offices after dinner. Representatives of the host agency discuss its external research program.

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Thus far this Agency has not been the host and has not discussed any of its external research programs.

3. For several reasons it is believed that active participation in these meetings will be beneficial to the Agency. It would be in keeping with the Agency's attitude of support of external research coordination, already expressed through the External Research Staff of the State Department, through our urging the Department of Defense to support the same staff, and through the DD/I's briefing of FEB regarding the Agency's responsibility in this area. Moreover, a free exchange of information about content and procedures of external research among the national security agencies is of obvious mutual benefit.

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4. It is recommended that permission be given for CIA to be the host to this group on 16 April 1953 - the regular monthly meeting night. It is proposed that after dinner at the Watergate Inn, the meeting will be held in the OIC office with the following agenda:

a. A description of the measures which this Agency has taken to facilitate and improve external research coordination in the national security area, with special emphasis on social science research (TAB A);

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State Department review  
completed

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5. It is also recommended that on this occasion the DD/I present the first item on the agenda.

6. The names, agencies represented, and security clearances of the individuals who will be invited to this meeting are found in TAB B. At TAB C is a list of agencies that have sponsored previous meetings.

JAMES Q. REBER  
Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination

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